



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Yaak Rod & Gun Club Well Project

2. Type of Proposed Action: Drill a well to supply Yaak Rod & Gun Club's shooting range and clubhouse with water.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The club is located several hundred yards from the town of Yaak, which is unincorporated and is northeast of Troy or Libby, in Lincoln County, Montana. The legal description on the Certificate of Survey reads, "National Forest lands described hereon – Tract A100-1 and Tract A100-2, along with ties to easement Tracts A100-E2, E4, E6 and E7. Private lands described hereon - portions of HES 431 - no full parcels defined."

The physical description reads, "HES 431 is located in protracted Sections 2 and 3 of T35N, R32W and protracted Sections 34 and 35 of T36N, R32W, PMM."

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): In 2007 the Yaak Rod & Gun Club was awarded a shooting range development grant of \$23,070 for partial payment of improvements to the skeet range and for construction of an addition to the existing clubhouse. Recently a fire destroyed the existing well house that the Yaak Rod & Gun Club shared with the county fire/ambulance barn as a source of water for their shooting range. Lincoln County is now requesting that the Rod & Gun Club drill a

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separate well to provide water exclusively for their range and clubhouse; therefore, the club has requested that monies from the original grant be diverted to help pay for this emergency project.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Provide water for the Yaak Rod & Gun Club's shooting range by drilling a water well and installing it to the clubhouse.

7. Maps:



Figure 1. Yaak Rod & Gun Club trap range located in the upper center of the photo.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected: Range is approximately 27.68 acres, but improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the broader area of the range.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project): The site is on an abandoned USAF radar site. There is light residential use to the east and to the west.

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There is USFS on the north and community land to the south with fire and ambulance barn, a garbage dump being the nearest facilities.

10. Description of Project: Drill a well so the range has a source of water for facility services and member conveniences.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

A "Notice of Completion of Ground Water Development" (form 602) must be completed by the well owner and submitted to the MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation after completion of the well.

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$3,000 est.*

*The club will use a portion of funds from an approved shooting range grant to fund this emergency project (see paragraph 5).

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Local hunter education, Boy Scouts, 4-H, and many other community organizations use the range or clubhouse for their activities.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: The Yaak Rod and Gun Club's shooting range shared a well with Lincoln County. A recent fire destroyed this well. The county has requested that the Rod & Gun Club drill a well to provide their range with a source of water.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Lincoln County, Montana

15. Name, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Jim Mayo, 2025 Longmeadow Rd., Troy, MT 59935, 295-3406
mayo@libby.org

16. Other Pertinent Information: Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: March 15, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex,

controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2 & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		#9
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. Range site plans, construction, and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year-round controlled access and fulfills a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, bow-hunter safety, and public shooting.

9. This is a rural area with a low population density. The closest habitation is to the south of the range as shown in Figure 1.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project): Drill the well and provide water for the shooting range.
- **Alternative B (No-Action Alternative):** Area will remain as an active shooting range without drilling the well.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no-action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered: A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No-Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available or prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no-action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences for the acceptance of Alternative A because it would ensure the facilities at the shooting range have safe source of water to meet member and visitor conveniences and maintenance requirements.
- The No-Action Alternative would not add a new well, and the range would not have a source of water. Land use would remain the same.

Describe any alternatives considered and eliminated from detailed study: None

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Bill Bischoff, Lincoln County, 512 California Ave, Libby, MT 59923
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Jim Mayo, 2025 Longmeadow Rd., Troy, MT 59935

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Nothing reviewed with this project appears to be complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The project being proposed is on properties leased from Lincoln County, Montana. The proposed site specific, low impact action that will support current recreational opportunities at the shooting range, indicates that this should be considered the final version of this environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The history of the Yaak Rod and Gun Club providing recreational opportunities to its members, and the community, indicates support for the proposed alternative.

Original EA prepared by: Gene R. Hickman, Ecological Assessments, Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 28, 2007

EA modified by: Kurt Cunningham, FWP P O Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620

Date modified: April 2, 2008

PART V. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required

Describe public involvement:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the Western News announcing the 21day public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.